

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

July 21, 2004

## **GUILTY PLEA IN COUNTERFEIT CHECK CASHING RING**

**RE: UNITED STATES v. JAQUANDA EZELL**

Michael A. Battle, the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced today that Jaquanda Ezell, age 29, of 571 North Goodman Street, Rochester, New York, pleaded guilty in front of the Honorable David G. Larimer, United States District Court Judge, to conspiracy to utter counterfeited checks in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371, which carries a maximum of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who is handling the case, stated that Jaquanda Ezell and others conspired to obtain money for their personal use by causing counterfeited checks to be negotiated at various home improvement stores in the Western District of New York and elsewhere. These stores included Lowe's Home Improvement, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Dollar General, Fashion Bug, BJ's Wholesale

and the Burlington Coat. For example, during the period March 16, 2003 and March 22, 2003, nine counterfeited checks purportedly issued from a federal insured bank and in the name of Antoinette Kimball were negotiated at various Lowe's in the Rochester area.

Jaquanda Ezell's role in the conspiracy was to cash the counterfeit checks. The loss to the various stores in over \$98,000.

Previously, Linda Floyd and Erica Givens pled guilty to conspiracy in connection with this matter.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation by William E. Kezer, Postal Inspector in Charge of the New York Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Greece New York Police Department.

Sentencing for Ezell is scheduled for September 21, 2004, at 10:00 p.m. in front of the Honorable David G. Larimer.

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